National Defence / Défense nationale

1998 Annual Report

Biological and Chemical Defence Review Committee

The Committee

Raymond G. Marusyk (Chair)
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Canada

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SUMMARY

This report records the 1998 activities of the Biological and Chemical Defence Review Committee (BCDRC). It also indicates the current state of the implementation of the recommendations made in the 1988 Barton Report and the reactions by the Department of National Defence (DND) to recommendations contained in previous BCDRC reports.

We have concluded that there are neither indications of covertness within Canada's biological and chemical defence program nor evidence to support the allegation that offense related activities are being conducted either on behalf of Canadian authorities or to comply with any multilateral treaty commitment.

It is our opinion that Canada should retain the capability to conduct a modest program of defensive research and development to permit military operations under the threat of biological and chemical weapons.

The Committee recommends that:

I. The Defence Research Establishment Suffield (DRES) procure two portable, high-resolution, close-focussing cameras compatible with the existing system for surveillance of the containment facility to permit the detailed inspection of level III agent holdings from an external video monitor.

II. Consideration be given to authorizing at least two personnel annually from the "National Medical Decontamination Platoon" (about to be established) to participate in agent training at DRES.

III. The Defence Research and Development Branch (DRDB), Defence and Civil Institute of Environmental Medicine (DCIEM) and DRES Contract Lists prepared annually for the Committee indicate Contract Number, Scientific Authority, Project Title, Contractor (including contract person and address), start date, finish date, total funding and allocations by fiscal year, source of funding if other than DND, Project/Task number and Remarks.

INTRODUCTION

The policy of the government of Canada is to press for global, comprehensive and verifiable treaties to ban all biological and chemical weapons. However, while the threat from such weapons endures, Canada has an obligation to ensure that members of the Canadian Forces (CF) have adequate training and equipment to protect themselves against exposure to chemical and biological agents.

On the other hand, the Canadian public has the right to be assured that Canada's policy of maintaining only a defensive capability in this field is fully respected at all times, and that any research, development and training activities undertaken pose no threat to public safety or the environment.

To facilitate this assurance, the Biological and Chemical Defence Review Committee (BCDRC) was established by the Minister of National Defence. The Committee is mandated to review annually the research, development and training activities in biological and chemical defence (BCD) undertaken by the Department of National Defence (DND) to ensure that they are defensive in nature and conducted in a professional manner with no threat to public safety or the environment (BCDRC Responsibilities are in Annex C).

The Committee members' appointments are approved by the Deputy Minister of National Defence and the Chief of the Defence Staff on the recommendation of the Committee Chairperson. Nominations for BCDRC membership are solicited by the Chairperson from the Royal Society of Canada, the Canadian Federation of Biological Societies, the Canadian Society of Microbiologists, the Chemical Institute of Canada, and the Society of Toxicology of Canada.

The present members are:

Chair Dr Raymond G Marusyk
Professor emeritus, University of Alberta [Microbiology]

Member Dr Heather D Durham
McGill University [Toxicology]

Member Dr Colin R McArthur
York University [Chemistry]

Commencing in 1990, Annual Reports have been submitted. All have been made available to the public (see Annex B).

COMMITTEE ACTIVITIES - 1998

Between 03 and 29 May 1998, the following DND Establishments including the associated ranges, laboratories and training facilities were visited:

- National Defence Headquarters with staff briefings from:

  Defence Research and Development Branch (DRDB)
  Deputy Chief of the Defence Staff
  Chief of Health Services

- 1 Canadian Mechanized Brigade Group, Canadian Forces Base (CFB) Edmonton and CFB Detachment Wainwright with briefings from each on the biological and chemical training being undertaken and facilities available;

- Canadian Forces Nuclear, Biological and Chemical (CFNBC) School with briefings on its responsibilities, resources and training;

- Defence and Civil Institute of Environmental Medicine (DCIEM) with briefings on the biological and chemical components of their 1998 research and development (R&D) program and related Human Factors Initiatives; and

- Defence Research Establishment Suffield (DRES) with briefings on the responsibilities and resources of DRES, the Medical Counter-measures and the Hazard Avoidance Sections including current and future programs.

Reports were presented to the Committee by representatives from the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade (DFAIT), 1st Canadian Air Division staff and three Canadian non-governmental agencies who have biological or chemical R&D contracts with DCIEM or DRES.

While at DRES, the BCDRC held privileged discussions with representatives of the Joint Occupational Safety and Health Committee, the three involved Unions, the Human Research Ethics and Animal Care Committees and the Establishment General Safety Officer. Further, time was made available at DRES to allow any member or groups of members to approach us to discuss matters of concern. These activities provided useful insights into the program and morale at Suffield.

In an endeavour to enhance our perspective of the concerns of Canadians in Canada's BCD activities, we tried to arrange a discussion session in Toronto with representatives of the University of Toronto Science for Peace group. Unfortunately their commitments precluded such a meeting this year. We did, however, meet with John Bryden, MP, in Ottawa.

We reviewed DND's 1998 BCD R&D Program and determined that it was in accordance with current Canadian Government Policy. The latest versions of the DRES Annual Report and Thrust Service Level Agreements, DCIEM Fact Sheets, current R&D contracts and publications lists were examined. In addition, the DRDB accountability documents were scrutinized.

Further, Dr CR McArthur attended the Nuclear, Biological and Chemical Defence (NBCD) Senior Officers' Course in December 1997 and Dr HD Durham will attend the next DND Annual NBCD Workshop.

IMPLEMENTATION OF BARTON REPORT RECOMMENDATIONS

The current implementation status of the Barton Report recommendations was ascertained to be:

GENERAL

1. **In the course of the annual program and budgetary process, the authorizing officer at each level be required to sign a certificate of compliance with Departmental policies.**

   Certificates of Compliance for 1998 were reviewed and found to be in order.

2. **A senior Review Committee be established in association with the Defence Science Advisory Board (DSAB).**

   We constitute such a Committee. In 1997 the Committee was removed from the aegis of the DSAB and established as a self administering agency (see Annex C).

3. **"Second opinions" should be obtained from outside sources on some of the potentially controversial test programs.**

   The BCDRC suggested that the most effective way to obtain credible second opinions would be to establish external committees and to encourage collaboration through workshop type conferences. As a result, once security concerns were satisfactorily addressed, a DRDB Technology Investment Workshop on biotechnology was held in November 1996. Also an independent Peer Review of the DRES BCD R&D program was conducted in June 1997.

4. **A document be prepared annually which would set out the nature of the research and development work under way, the number of people involved, and allocated funding.**

   The 1990/91 Chief Research and Development (CRAD) Review was published in February 1992 and the 1991/92 Review in January 1994. The Defence Research and Development, Science and Technology for the New Century was published in March 1996. The initial Defence Research and Development Branch Outline of Program was published in April 1996, the second edition in June 1997 and the third edition in June 1998.

5. **A layman's pamphlet be published which would help improve public understanding about Biological and Chemical Defence.**

   An appropriate Departmental pamphlet was published in August 1990. A similar pamphlet entitled "Meeting the Challenge - Research and Development in Defence Sciences and Technologies", emphasizing the work at DRES, was published in April 1993. DRDB also publishes "Defence R&D Highlights" six times yearly and a Web site, www.crad.dnd.ca, has been established. In addition, DCIEM publishes Fact Sheets recapitulating the essential components of their R&D program.

6. **A DND directive on policies and procedures regarding the use of volunteers and animals be published.**

   DND Policy - Animal Use in R&D was issued on 15 June 1989.

   The promulgation of Defence Administrative Orders and Directives (DAOD) 5061-0 and 5061-1, Research Involving Human Subjects, has been delayed indefinitely as a result of problems related to the departmental DAOD conversion project.

DRES

1. **A procedure be established to ensure that the DRES Safety Manual is reviewed at prescribed regular intervals of not more than three years. Safety drills should also be conducted at prescribed regular intervals.**

   An effective procedure has been established. Safety drills are being conducted as recommended.

2. **An automatic annual review and certification procedure be instituted to confirm that stocks of toxic agents are being kept to the minimum level necessary for the conduct of an efficient research and development program.**

   The annual inventory audit was completed in January 1998 and reviewed by the BCDRC in May 1998. We agreed that stocks were being properly maintained at a minimum level which in most cases is only a fraction of the authorized levels.

3. **The arrangements being implemented to improve security and access controls be expedited.**

   Completed.

4. **Pending the destruction of the excess agent stocks now stored in the Experimental Proving Ground (EPG), the adequacy of existing physical security arrangements be reviewed with a view to strengthening them.**

   Completed.

5. **The incinerator which is to be acquired for the program be considered for use in the destruction of other dangerous industrial chemicals, including PCBs.**

   The Alberta Provincial Government legislated this recommendation unimplementable. The incinerator was sold and its removal from DRES was completed by 6 August 1992.

6. **The Experimental Proving Ground (EPG) operation and maintenance be given "project" status within the CRAD program.**

Implemented. Thus positive visibility is given to all activities, funding and personnel involved in the EPG and ensures an annual review as a separate program component.

7. **The scope of the safety and environmental requirements governing outdoor testing at DRES be determined by the provisions of the Canadian Environmental Protection Act.**

Although the present Act does not include such express provisions, the Federal Minister of Environment has said that the department will develop the requisite guidelines as and when necessary. In addition, a staff control system is in place and functioning to ensure compliance with all constraints.

8. **A full environmental audit of DRES be commissioned as soon as possible and that it be repeated at regular intervals of, say, five years.**

Acres Consultants Ltd, having completed the audit under a Supply and Services Canada contract, submitted their final report in February 1992. An internal staff agency was created to initiate recommendation compliance. All the Report's recommendations have been addressed and full compliance is anticipated. The Acres' report has been deposited with the Canada Institute for Scientific and Technical Information (CISTI), the National Library and major university libraries throughout the country. The first follow-on audit was conducted by Acres International Ltd in early 1997 and the report was received at DRES on 31 March 1997. An action plan to address the recommendations and to correct the deficiencies has been introduced. The BCDRC reviews progress annually.

DREO

As the entire Defence Research Establishment Ottawa (DREO) chemical agent inventory has been destroyed, all storage and handling facilities removed, laboratories dismantled and the facility decommissioned, the BCDRC will no longer report on DREO activities.

IMPLEMENTATION OF BCDRC REPORT RECOMMENDATIONS

Note: Once a recommendation has been complied with to the satisfaction of the Committee it will cease to be included in subsequent Reports. However, if the effect of the recommendation is of a continuing nature it will be subject to periodic monitoring by the Committee.

1. **The flow of information within the Defence Research laboratories between sections, management and staff might be improved -- possibly through occasional informal meetings and discussions with senior managers.**

Although there is some improvement in awareness levels, additional effort is required. Monitoring will continue.

2. **An information exchange system be instituted to ensure that applicable CRAD directed research results are readily available to civilian industry.**

Agreed. This will be accomplished by increasing the distribution of DRDB Reports to interested industries, by making the Directorate of Scientific Information Services (DSIS) Data Base readily available to non-governmental agencies, by exploiting the Public Works and Government Services Canada (PWGSC) electronic information system and by DND becoming more pro-active in linkage to university research and product development. "Websites" have been created for DRDB, DCIEM and DRES. Further, CRAD published the first "Research and Development Branch Outline of Program" in April 1996 and the second edition in June 1997. As the intent of this recommendation has been met, it is considered completed.

3. **CRAD invite, through learned societies, a number of knowledgeable outside scientists to a workshop to discuss a biological defence research strategy for Canada for the next decade.**

Consideration was given to instituting advisory committees by discipline. However, as a practical solution to the problem of constraints imposed by international agreements has been difficult to find, reliance has had to be placed on acquiring assistance through consultations with groups such as the Canadian Bacterial Diseases Network. Subsequently, a DRDB Technology Investment Workshop on biotechnology was held in November 1996 and an independent Peer Review of the DRES BCD R&D program was conducted in June 1997. As the intent of this recommendation has been met, it is considered completed.

4. **The Annual Agent Inventories Audit Reports be restructured as follows:**

   a. **biological agents used for research purposes are to be identified by complete strain or antigenic designator;**

   b. **stocks of biological agents are to be quantified in meaningful terms; ie, infectious titres or colony-forming units per given volume; and**

   c. **stocks of biological agents that are clearly not agents of biological warfare should be identified as such with an accompanying statement to the effect that such agents may be found in Public Health, University and Industrial laboratories.**

Approved. This work will be completed now that the DRES containment facility has been recommissioned.

5. **The biological agent holdings of DRES be restricted to those micro-organisms that are in frequent use or not readily available from central strain repositories.**

Approved. Compliance will be effected now that the DRES containment facility has been recommissioned.

6. **The BCDRC be contractually guaranteed access to all private sector laboratories that become involved in the Biological and/or Chemical Defence R&D program either under the prevailing contracting system or through the auspices of the industrial partnership proposal.**

Approved. Although there have been no problems of access to date, CRAD will maintain observation and if necessary will resolve this issue in conjunction with PWGSC. Monitoring will continue.

7. **The authorized maximum quantities of chemical agent stocks at DRES be reviewed.**

Approved. Appropriate action will be initiated by DRDB.

8. **For research purposes, vaccine strains of bioagents in lieu of pathogenic strains should be used whenever possible.**

Approved. This project will be initiated now that the DRES containment facility has been recommissioned.

9. **Consideration should be given to identifying fundamental research which would both maintain a level of basic research with direct applicability to biological and chemical defence and also have applications outside the defence sphere.**

Agreed. Current research contracts with Universities and Industry are based on these dual requirements. Further, the development of industrial partnerships is forcing this issue as commercial use and sales potential have to be identified before Canadian industry will become involved. As the intent of this recommendation has been met, it is considered completed.

10. **The CFNBC School Training Library collection be reviewed and dated reference material be replaced. Additionally, the ability to access information servers, eg; Internet or World Wide Web, be provided.**

Agreed. Marked progress has been made in this endeavour. However, as it is not yet fully completed, monitoring will continue.

11. **The skills of the present DRES Staff be reviewed to ensure that no critical imbalances have been created that might affect productivity, safety or responsiveness.**

The current DRES staff is under continual review within the context of the ongoing DRDB re-engineering and downsizing. It is clearly understood that any situation which creates decreased productivity, responsiveness or, most importantly, safety will not be tolerated. Monitoring will continue.

12. **The DRES Safety Manual and Emergency Response Plans be up-dated and tested at least annually.**

Agreed. Monitoring will continue.

13. **Assurances be included in all future applicable contracts to ensure that work conducted under the auspices of the Suffield Technical Centre (STC) does not compromise DRES laboratory core competence.**

This will be examined on a case-by-case basis. If DRES and DRDB determine that a particular core competence is to be maintained, the required clauses to protect that competency will be included in all contract proposals.

As of May 1998 the STC concept has been terminated as a DND project, thus this recommendation is considered completed.

14. **DRES replace the current computer-based agent inventory control system with a simplified program.**

Agreed. Program revision has commenced. Monitoring will continue.

15. **DRES complete by 31 Mar 98 the three previously accepted recommendations whose compliance is dependent upon the reopening of the containment facility (our 1993, 1994 and 1995 Reports refer).**

Agreed. Compliance is expected but not by the recommended date.

16. **DRDB, DCIEM and DRES Contract Lists prepared for the Committee indicate the source of funding if other than DND.**

Agreed. Full compliance is anticipated.

SOME IMPORTANT ISSUES

Concerned Citizens Groups.

During the course of meetings with representatives of special interest groups and of the media, a few primary concerns were identified and reasoned responses were given by the Committee at those times. However, two specific concerns do merit recorded comment. Based on our research and discussions with Departmental personnel, we offer the following:

1. **Concern:** How do interested persons differentiate with unequivocal confidence between offensive and defensive research.

Comment: In general, the Committee believes that it is neither possible nor profitable to try to rigorously define the scope of these activities. However, offensive and defensive biological and chemical research can be at least partially defined in terms of the quantities involved, the activities in progress and the general intent.

Quantities are more easily defined with chemical agents since defensive activities, such as equipment testing and decontamination drills involve only small amounts of agent, well within the limits proscribed by the provisions of the Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC). Equally, precursor chemicals should correspond on a chemical equivalence (or molar) basis with the actual agent. These quantities should be traceable from source to end agent provided that trading and shipping procedures are kept under scrutiny. Biological agents are more difficult to quantify, per se, since large amounts can be grown from a small viable colony. However, even then materials such as growth media, and sometimes specific pieces of equipment, are necessary and should be traceable and accountable.

Activities can be subdivided into development of new or modified agents, testing procedures, and training protocols. In either chemical or biological research, it would be reasonable to consider deliberate attempts to enhance persistence, virulence or toxicity, or to circumvent existing defense procedures, as offensive in nature. In testing, one could differentiate between testing the agent for the properties suggested above, and testing the defensive equipment against known or suspected agents. The former should raise suspicions of offensive activity unless justified in relation to defensive capability. The latter should be part of any responsible defensive activity. Similarly, training to deliver chemical or biological agents is clearly offensive while training to protect against or neutralize such agents is a necessary part of a defensive posture.

Intent is the least fathomable aspect. It relies heavily on interpersonal contact and interaction, and progress in confidence building measures. This point has also been outlined in the paper by Dr. David L Huxsoll of Louisiana State University, printed in Volume 666 of the Annals of the New York Academy of Sciences [The Microbiologist and Biological Defense Research: Ethics, Politics and International Security] dated 31 December 1992 to which the Committee referred in the 1994 report.

2. **Concern:** Obtaining information from DND is a daunting and time consuming activity.

Comment: As specific incidents could not be identified, it is difficult to offer an adequate response. However, if requests for information or for assistance in request formulation are addressed to either the Director General Public Affairs or to the Access to Information Coordinator in National Defence Headquarters, we are confident that positive results in accordance with current regulations will be forthcoming.

COMMENTS

- We would like to express our appreciation for the candidness and cooperation given to us throughout our 1998 visits' schedule.

- Within DND's BCD R&D program, the quality of science, the projects underway, the resultant publications, and the level of safety awareness continue to be of a high standard.

- The DRES computer-based agent inventory control system has not yet achieved the desired level of effectiveness.

- Now that the DRES Containment Facility has reopened, the Committee no longer has direct facile access to the Level III agent storage freezers. The existing video surveillance system requires enhancement to permit BCDRC compliance with the inspection of agent holdings requirement. However, the acquisition of additional cameras would not preclude a Committee member from entering the containment facility in the future if physical inspection of the agent holdings were to be deemed necessary, as long as this member complies with all safety regulations including mandated vaccination requirements.

- One of the results of the several training and support exercises in 1997 and 1998 may be the establishment by DND of a National Medical Decontamination Platoon. It would be prudent for some of the personnel assigned to this unit to participate in agent training.

- Another result of these training and support activities is an acute awareness among the troops involved of the terrorist threat to Canada. Their recognition of the essentiality of BCD training and their need to be well prepared personally to perform their designated responsibilities are most apparent.

- It is considered that Canadian participation internationally in matters related to BCD [for example, participation in the United Nations Special Commission on Iraq (UNSCOM)] is of notable importance both to Canada and professionally within DRDB and should be continued.

- Although statements describing all existing contracts with outside agencies are open to our review, the continuation of an annual briefing of the BCDRC by a cross-section of selected contractors is deemed to be necessary in order to provide us with complete confidence in the total program.

- As the CF deploy more frequently and with little warning to the lesser developed areas of the world, due recognition and effort should be given by the research and medical elements of DND to endemic natural biological hazards as well as those biologicals defined as agents.

- Middle East concerns, recent Asian events, the current state of political affairs in Eastern Europe, particularly in view of the apparent smuggling of plutonium and possibly other nuclear, biological and chemical materials, and Canada's involvement in peace restoration and peacekeeping operations in the lesser developed areas of the world all suggest that a discreet R&D program aimed at maintaining state-of-art detection and protection devices should continue. In addition, initial and annual refresher training designed to comply with NDHQ Policy Directive P6/93 of 03 August 1993 should be carried out by all uniformed members of DND

CONCLUSIONS

- The BCDRC found neither indications of covertness within Canada's BCD program nor evidence to support the allegation that offense related activities were being conducted either on behalf of Canadian authorities or to comply with any multilateral treaty commitment.

- We remain convinced that Canada must retain a modest capability to effect essential defensive R&D to permit the conduct of conventional military and counter-terrorist operations under the threat of biological and chemical weapons. We believe that Canada's ability to respond rapidly and effectively to biological and chemical threats, domestically or off-shore, will depend upon the maintenance of core expertise in defence science within DND. It is our opinion that the priority of effort should be accorded to the following projects, which in addition to their obvious military relevance also contribute to treaty monitoring, medical support, pollution control and the handling of toxic wastes:

  a. agent detection and identification;

  b. prophylaxis and therapy for threat agents;

  c. development of less physiologically burdening individual protective clothing with wider geographical and employment specific pertinence;

  d. refinement of procedures to foresee and assess hazards posed by both established and hypothetical chemical and biological agents; and

  e. improved decontaminants.

RECOMMENDATIONS

I. DRES procure two portable, high-resolution, close-focussing cameras compatible with the existing system for surveillance of the containment facility to permit the detailed inspection of level III agent holdings from an external video monitor.

II. Consideration be given to authorizing at least two personnel annually from the "National Medical Decontamination Platoon" (about to be established) to participate in agent training at DRES.

III. The DRDB, DCIEM and DRES Contract Lists prepared annually for the Committee indicate Contract Number, Scientific Authority, Project Title, Contractor (including contract person and address), start date, finish date, total funding and allocations by fiscal year, source of funding if other than DND, Project/Task number and Remarks.

ANNEX A

BIOGRAPHIES OF COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Dr. Raymond G. Marusyk (Chair)

A graduate in virology from the University of Alberta and the Karolinska Institute in Stockholm, he is now a Professor emeritus at the University of Alberta. He is Past President of the Canadian Society of Microbiologists, a Specialist Microbiologist (Public Health) of the College of Microbiologists and principal of several environmental management companies.

Dr. Heather D. Durham

A graduate in Pharmacology from the University of Western Ontario and the University of Alberta, she is a Professor in the Department of Neurology and Neurosurgery at McGill University and an Associate Member of the Département de médicine du travail et d'hygiène du milieu, Université de Montréal. Among her many appointments and affiliations, she has been a member of the Board of Directors of the Society of Toxicology of Canada and is also a member of the Society for Neuroscience and the Centre Interuniversitaire de Recherche en Toxicologie.

Dr. Colin R. McArthur

A graduate in chemistry from the University of Western Ontario and from the University of Illinois, he is Associate Professor and past Chair, Department of Chemistry at York University. He is a member of the Chemical Institute of Canada, the Canadian Society for Chemistry and the International Union of Pure & Applied Chemistry.

ANNEX B

REFERENCES FOR PREVIOUS REPORTS

- Research Development and Training in Chemical and Biological Defence within the Department of National Defence and the Canadian Forces: A Review by William H. Barton, Minister of Supply and Services Canada, 1989, p.54. [Available in Canada through the Canadian Government Publishing Centre, Supply and Services Canada, Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0S9. Catalogue No. D2-79/1989E, ISBN 0-660-13103-X.]

- First Annual Report of the Biological and Chemical Defence Review Committee, Minister of National Defence, Ottawa, 1991, p.7. It is also included in the second annual Review of the Chemical and Biological Defence Program January 1990 - April 1991, Minister of National Defence, Ottawa, February 1992, p.28. [Both available through National Defence Headquarters Library Services, National Defence Headquarters, MGen George R. Pearkes Building, Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0K2.]

- Second Annual Report of the Biological and Chemical Defence Review Committee, is included in the third annual Review of the Chemical and Biological Defence Program May 1991 - March 1992, Minister of National Defence, Ottawa, January 1994, p.26. [Available through National Defence Headquarters Library Services, National Defence Headquarters, MGen George R. Pearkes Building, Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0K2.]

- Third Annual Report of the Biological and Chemical Defence Review Committee, is included in the fourth annual Review of the Chemical and Biological Defence Program April 1992 - March 1993, Minister of National Defence, Ottawa, September 1996, p.31. [Available through National Defence Headquarters Library Services, National Defence Headquarters, MGen George R. Pearkes Building, Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0K2.]

- 1993 Annual Report of the Biological and Chemical Defence Review Committee, Minister of National Defence, Ottawa, June 1995, p.9. [Available through National Defence Headquarters Library Services, National Defence Headquarters, MGen George R. Pearkes Building, Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0K2.]

- 1994 Annual Report of the Biological and Chemical Defence Review Committee, Minister of National Defence, Ottawa, June 1995, p.9. [Available through National Defence Headquarters Library Services, National Defence Headquarters, MGen George R. Pearkes Building, Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0K2.]

- 1995 Annual Report of the Biological and Chemical Defence Review Committee, Minister of National Defence, Ottawa, February 1996, p.9. [Available through National Defence Headquarters Library Services, National Defence Headquarters, MGen George R. Pearkes Building, Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0K2.]

- 1996 Annual Report of the Biological and Chemical Defence Review Committee, Minister of National Defence, Ottawa, April 1997, p.9. [Available through National Defence Headquarters Library Services, National Defence Headquarters, MGen George R. Pearkes Building, Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0K2.]

- 1997 Annual Report of the Biological and Chemical Defence Review Committee, Minister of National Defence, Ottawa, March 1998, p.9. [Available through National Defence Headquarters Library Services, National Defence Headquarters, MGen George R. Pearkes Building, Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0K2.]

ANNEX C

BIOLOGICAL AND CHEMICAL DEFENCE REVIEW COMMITTEE

RESPONSIBILITIES

GENERAL

1. The Biological and Chemical Defence Review Committee (BCDRC) is to review annually the research, development and training programs in biological and chemical defence undertaken by the Department of National Defence (DND) to ensure that all activities within those programs are, in fact, defensive in nature and are conducted in a professional manner with no threat to public safety or the environment.

EXECUTION

2. The BCDRC will annually:

a. visit:

(1) The Defence Research Establishment Suffield (DRES);

(2) The Defence and Civil Institute of Environmental Medicine (DCIEM);

(3) The Canadian Forces Nuclear, Biological and Chemical (CFNBC) School; and

(4) at least two other DND Establishments where biological and chemical training is conducted;

b. review the annual DND Research and Development Program as originated by the Chief of Research and Development (CRAD) and approved by the Defence Management Committee;

c. review the implementation of the recommendations made in the:

(1) BARTON REPORT of 31 December 1988;

(2) 1992 Independent Environmental Audit of DRES; and

(3) previous BCDRC Reports;

d. examine the DRES and DCIEM Annual Reports, activities and records of the Human Research Ethics and Animal Care Committees and the current research and development contracts and publications lists; and

e. submit a report of their activities and findings to the Chief of the Defence Staff (CDS) and the Deputy Minister (DM) of National Defence.

COORDINATION

3. The Committee, consisting of a chairperson and two members representing the disciplines of chemistry, microbiology and toxicology, is to be appointed for terms of three years by the DM/CDS on the recommendation of the pertinent learned society and the Committee Chairperson.

4. The BCDRC will be self administering. It shall select an executive officer to attend to all procedural, reporting, coordination and administrative matters as directed by the BCDRC. The Executive Officer will establish liaison with and effect all tasking in support of BCDRC activities through the designated National Defence Headquarters (NDHQ) contact officers from the Directorate of Nuclear, Biological and Chemical Defence (DNBCD) and the Defence Research and Development Branch (DRDB). The Executive Officer will coordinate financial and security issues with D NDHQ Secretariat. BCDRC members and the Executive Officer must be in possession of a valid Level II (Secret) Security Clearance.

5. Upon receipt of the annual BCDRC report, the DM/CDS will respond to the BCDRC Chairperson in a reasonable time. All elements of DND are to provide assistance to the BCDRC as necessary and the required access to all relevant facilities, personnel and information required to meet the mandate of the BCDRC.